AVATAR
The Last Airbender

Show #308

BOOK THREE: Fire
CHAPTER EIGHT: "The Dark Side of the Moon"

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ACT ONE

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The kids sit around a campfire, sharing ghost stories. Appa is parked out of sight in a nearby cave. Sokka looks around at the kids in a scary way, trying to up the spook level.

SOKKA
1 ...suddenly they heard something down the hall in the dark. (HIGH-PITCHED SCARY SINGING, LIKE AN ALIEN HAUNTED ANGEL). It came into the torch light... and they knew-- 1

He whips out his sword into the firelight.

SOKKA
2 The Blade of Wing-fun was haunted! (EXTRA LOUD HIGH-PITCHED SINGING) 2

Everyone looks at him for a moment, unimpressed.

AANG
3 I think I liked "the man with a sword for a hand" better. 3

TOPH
4 Water Tribe slumber parties must stink. 4

KATARA
5 No, wait. I've got one, and this is a true Southern Water Tribe story. 5

SOKKA
6 Is this one of those "a friend of my cousin knew some guy that this happened to" stories? 6

KATARA
7 No. It happened to Mom. 7

She gives Sokka a deadly serious look and Sokka shuts up. Everyone leans in to listen to Katara's story.

KATARA
8 One winter, when Mom was a girl, a snowstorm buried the whole village for weeks. A month later, Mom realized she hadn't seen her friend Nini since the storm. 8
(MORE)

KATARA (cont'd)
So Mom and some others went to check on Nini's family. When they got there, no one was home -- just a fire flickering in the fireplace. While the men went out to search, Mom stayed in the house. When she was alone, she heard a voice--
(creepy little girl voice)
9 It's so cold, and I can't get warm. 9

Katara looks over at Sokka with an INNOCENT, CHILDLIKE face. Sokka RECOILS in fear.

KATARA
10 Mom turned and saw Nini standing by the fire. She was blue, like she was frozen. Mom ran outside for help -- but when everyone came back, Nini was gone... 10

SOKKA
11 Where did she go?! 11

KATARA
12 No one knows. Nini's house stands empty to this day. But sometimes people see smoke coming from the chimney, like little Nini is still trying to get warm. 12

She hugs herself and leans into the fire, like she's trying to get warm. The kids sit silently for a BEAT, as the creepy feelings sit in. We see the terrified looks on their faces.

SUDDENLY Toph JUMPS up, an alert look on her face.

TOPH
13 Wait, guys, did you hear that? 13

The kids jump, startled, then get quiet and listen.

TOPH
14 I hear people under the mountain... 14
(getting a disturbed look)
15 ...and they're screaming! 15

Sokka rolls his eyes.

SOKKA
16 (DISMISSIVE SOUND) Nice try. 16

TOPH
17 No, I'm serious, I hear something... 17

KATARA
(a little shaken)
18 You're probably just jumpy from the ghost stories. 18

TOPH
19 It just stopped. 19

Everyone is quiet for a beat, listening to the SILENCE.

AANG
(quietly)
20 All right, now I'm getting scared. 20

Everyone is quiet again for a moment. Then...

HAMA (O.S.)
21 Hello, children. 21

Sokka and the rest of the kids JUMP.

ALL THE KIDS
22 AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHH! 22

They turn to see an old woman, HAMA, emerging from the dark near their fire. The kids take a moment to adjust to the fact that there's a smiling old lady standing there. Finally they manage to settle down.

HAMA
23 Sorry to frighten you. My name is Hama. You children shouldn't be out in the forest by yourselves at night. I have an inn nearby, why don't you come back there for some spiced tea and warm beds? 23

The kids share a look, then--

SOKKA
24 Yes, please. 24

Hama gives him a smile.

INT. HAMA'S INN - NIGHT

Hama's inn is a quaint little bed and breakfast, and the kids sit around the kitchen table drinking hot tea.

KATARA
25 Thanks for letting us stay here tonight. You have a lovely inn. 25

HAMA
26 Aren't you sweet? You know, you should be careful, people have been disappearing in those woods you were camping in. 26

SOKKA
27 What do you mean, disappearing? 27

HAMA
(a little spooky)
28 When the moon turns full, people walk in and they don't come out. 28
(brightening)
29 Who wants more tea? 29

Everyone just sits still, too freaked to answer.

HAMA
(comfortingly)
30 Don't worry, you'll all be completely safe here. Why don't I show you to your rooms and you can get a good night's rest. 30

She stands and leads them upstairs, but they're still looking around, a little spooked.

INT. SOKKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sokka lies in his bed, staring around his dark, strange room, still creeped out. The old house MOANS and CREAKS.

MOMO
31 (SCARED CHITTERING) 31

SOKKA
32 I know, Momo, this place is creepy. I don't know if I'm going to be able to fall asleep... 32

Off Sokka's SCARED EXPRESSION...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. SOKKA'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Sokka's GOOFY EXPRESSION, fast asleep.

SOKKA
33 (SLEEPY NOISES) 33

Sokka sleeps peacefully in his room with Momo curled up by his head, dreaming sweet Sokka dreams of giant feasts.

HAMA (O.S.)
34 Wakey-wakey! 34

Sokka twitches a little and opens his eyes.

SOKKA'S P.O.V.

Hama's smiling face is right there.

HAMA
35 Time to go shopping! 35

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Hama leads the kids through town. Katara walks near Hama, chatting, while Aang and Sokka drag behind, already overloaded with things Hama has bought. Toph carries nothing, but she still hangs back with the boys.

KATARA
36 That Mr. Yao seems to have a thing for you. Maybe we should go back and see if he'll give us some free komodo sausages. 36

Hama looks at her with mock outrage.

HAMA
37 You would have me use my feminine charms to take advantage of that poor man? 37
(smiling broadly)
38 I think you and I are going to get along swimmingly. 38

They walk on, chatting some more. As the group passes a fruit stand, Aang overhears the VENDOR talking to a CUSTOMER.

CUSTOMER
39 You won't have any ash bananas til next week? 39

VENDOR
40 Well, I have to send the boy to Hing-wa Island to get them, and it's a two-day trip... 40

CUSTOMER
41 Oh, right. Tomorrow's the full moon. 41

VENDOR
42 Exactly. I can't lose another delivery boy in the woods. 42

Sokka turns to Aang. They speak with the COOL CONFIDENCE of experience.

SOKKA
43 People disappearing in the woods -- weird stuff during full moons? This just reeks of Spirit World shenanigans. 43

AANG
44 I bet if we take a little walk around town we'll find out what these people did to the environment to make the spirits mad. 44

SOKKA
45 And then you can sew up this little mystery lickety-split, Avatar-style. 45

AANG
46 Helping people. That's what I do. 46

Hama turns to the kids.

HAMA
47 Why don't you all take those things back to the inn? I just have to run a couple more errands. I'll be back in a little while. 47

SOKKA
48 This is a mysterious little town you have here. 48

HAMA
49 Mysterious town for mysterious children. 49

She smiles cryptically then walks off, leaving Sokka to wonder what she meant by that.

INT. HAMA'S INN - DAY

The kids stack Hama's purchases on her kitchen table.

SOKKA
50 That Hama seems a little strange. Like she knows something... or she's hiding something. 50

KATARA
51 That's ridiculous. She's a nice woman who took us in and gave us a place to stay. She kind of reminds me of Gran-gran. 51

SOKKA
52 But what did she mean by that comment, "mysterious children?" 52

KATARA
53 Gee, I don't know, maybe because she found four strange kids camping in the woods at night? Isn't that a little mysterious? 53

SOKKA
54 I'm going to take a look around. 54

KATARA
55 Sokka! 55

He heads upstairs to snoop, with Katara and the rest of the kids hot on his heels.

KATARA
56 Sokka, what are you doing? You can't just snoop around someone's house. 56

SOKKA
58 It'll be fine. 58

AANG
(nervous)
57 She could be home any minute. 57

He opens up a guest room to see a bed covered in dirt.

Sokka goes back to opening guest rooms, which all look just like guest rooms oughtta. *

KATARA
62 Sokka, you're going to get us all in trouble. And this is just plain rude! 62

SOKKA
63 I'm not finished yet. 63

He goes to another door and tries to open it, but it's STUCK.

SOKKA
(straining to open door)
64 Come on... 64

The door finally SWINGS OPEN, sending Sokka flying backwards onto the floor. SCARY MARIONETTES LUNGE OUT from what is apparently the closet they are kept in. The kids are all startled and take a quick step back from the door. The puppets SWAY on their strings, their GLASSY DOLLS' EYES seeming to watch the kids.

AANG
65 Okay, that's pretty creepy. 65

KATARA
(a little ruffled)
66 So she's got a hobby. There's nothing weird about that. 66

Sokka collects himself and starts walking to a door at the end of the hall.

KATARA
67 Sokka, you've looked enough! Hama will be back soon! 67

Sokka ignores her and tries to open the door. It's locked.

SOKKA
68 Just an ordinary puppet-loving innkeeper, huh? Then why does she have a locked door up here? 68

KATARA
(growing outraged)
69 Probably to keep people like you from snooping through her stuff! 69

SOKKA
70 We'll see. 70

Sokka gets down on his knees to look through the keyhole.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

In this classic Hitchcockian shot, we see the room is empty except for a little chest in the middle of the bare floor.

BACK TO NORMAL VIEW

Sokka jumps up.

SOKKA
71 It's empty except for a little chest. 71

TOPH
72 Maybe it's treasure! 72

Sokka pulls out his machete and uses it to pry the door open.

KATARA
73 Sokka, what are you doing?! You're breaking into a private room! 73

SOKKA
74 I have to see what's in there. 74

AANG
75 We shouldn't be doing this. 75

INSIDE THE MYSTERIOUS ROOM

Sokka picks up the chest and tries to open it, but it's locked. He looks around the room.

SOKKA
76 Maybe there's a key here somewhere. 76

TOPH
(getting an idea)
77 Oh! Hand it over! 77

She takes the chest from Sokka and puts it back down, then takes her METEORITE BRACELET and molds it into the shape of a key. She tries to open the chest, but her key doesn't work, and she keeps reshaping it to see how to make it fit.

SOKKA
78 Come on, come on... 78

TOPH
79 This isn't as easy as it looks. 79

AANG
80 Guys, I don't know about this. 80

KATARA
81 This is crazy. I'm leaving. 81

SOKKA
82 Suit yourself. Do it, Toph. 82

Finally, Toph makes a key that fits. The box opens.

P.O.V. FROM INSIDE THE BOX UP AT THE KIDS

Just as the kids start to peer over the edge of the box, we hear from the doorway--

HAMA (O.S.)
83 I'll tell you what's in the box. 83

BACK TO NORMAL VIEW OF ROOM

The kids wheel around to see Hama striding toward them from the doorway. As they watch her nervously, she reaches in the box and pulls out a WHALE TOOTH COMB, cradling it lovingly.

SOKKA
84 An old comb? 84

HAMA
85 It's my greatest treasure. It's 85
the last thing I own from growing
up in the Southern Water Tribe.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HAMA'S INN - THE MYSTERIOUS ROOM - DAY

The kids stand staring at Hama, still blown away by her End of Act One announcement.

KATARA
86 You're from the Southern Water Tribe? 86

HAMA
87 Just like you. 87

Katara and Sokka are doubly shocked.

KATARA
88 How did you know? 88

HAMA
89 I heard you talking around your campfire. 89

SOKKA
90 But why didn't you tell us? 90

HAMA
91 I wanted to surprise you. I bought all this food today so I could fix you a big Water Tribe dinner. Of course, I can't get all the ingredients I need here, but ocean kumquats are a lot like sea prunes if you stew them long enough. 91

AANG
(not excited)
92 Great. 92

Katara breaks into a wide smile.

KATARA
93 I knew I felt a bond with you right away. 93

She gives Sokka a look: his cue to apologize.

SOKKA
94 And I knew you were keeping a secret. So I guess we were both right. 94

Katara gives Sokka a harder look.

SOKKA
95 But I'm sorry we were sneaking around. 95

Hama smiles.

HAMA
96 Apology accepted. Now let's get cooking. 96

INT. HAMA'S INN - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The preparation is done, and a huge spread is laid out before the kids. Aang leans over to Toph.

AANG
(quietly)
97 I'd steer clear of the sea prunes. 97

TOPH
98 I thought they were ocean kumquats. 98

AANG
99 Close enough. 99

HAMA
100 Who wants five flavor soup? 100

The kids all nod, and Hama bends the soup out of a large tureen into their bowls. Katara looks at her excitedly.

KATARA
101 You're a Waterbender! I've never met another Waterbender from our tribe! 101

HAMA
102 That's because the Fire Nation wiped them all out. I was the last one. 102

SOKKA
103 So how did you end up out here? 103

Hama's mood darkens.

HAMA
104 I was stolen from my home. 104

FLASHBACK

EXT. SOUTHERN WATER TRIBE - SIXTY YEARS EARLIER - DAY

We see the Southern Water Tribe back in its heyday. While it's not as developed as the North Pole, it's much nicer than the village we saw in the pilot.

HAMA (V.O.)
105 It was over sixty years ago when the raids started. 105

A YOUNG HAMA laughs with a YOUNG GRAN-GRAN, who looks a lot like Katara. Suddenly, BLACK SNOW begins falling on the village. Gran-Gran and Hama look up at the sky, curiously. They hear someone yelling in the distance.

VILLAGER (O.S.)
106 Fire Nation warships are in the harbor! 106

They turn to see a Fire Nation fleet steaming toward the village.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Fire Nation soldiers raid the village as Waterbenders try to defend their homes.

HAMA (V.O.)
107 They came again and again, each time rounding up more of our Waterbenders and taking them captive. 107

Fire Nation soldiers lead a group of chained-up Waterbenders toward a ship.

HAMA (V.O.)
108 We did our best to hold them off, but our numbers dwindled as the raids continued. 108

A group of WATERBENDERS suspends a ship in ice (NOTE: It's the same ship we saw in the pilot). As they fight, they're flanked by a larger group of attacking Firebenders. The Waterbenders are trapped and forced to surrender.

HAMA (V.O.)
109 Finally, I too was captured. 109

We see Hama being led away from the village in chains. She looks back at her home, as it turns out, for the last time.

HAMA (V.O.)
110 I was led away in chains. The last Waterbender of the Southern Water Tribe. 110

Hama watches her home disappear on the horizon as she steams away on a Fire Nation ship.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HAMA'S INN - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

We return to the dinner, and Hama looks stricken from reliving her horrible experience. Katara puts her hand on Hama's shoulder.

HAMA
111 They put us in terrible prisons here in the Fire Nation. I was the only one who managed to escape. 111

SOKKA
112 How did you get away? And why did you stay in the Fire Nation? 112

Hama shakes her head.

HAMA
113 I'm sorry. It's too painful to talk about any more. 113

KATARA
114 We completely understand -- we lost our mother in a raid. 114

HAMA
115 Oh, you poor things... 115

Everyone sits silently for a beat.

KATARA
116 I can't tell you what it means to me to meet you. It's an honor. You're a hero. 116

Hama smiles at her.

HAMA
117 I never thought I'd meet another Southern Waterbender. I'd like to teach you what I know so you can carry on the Southern tradition when I'm gone. 117

Katara's jaw drops.

KATARA
118 Yes! Yes, of course! To learn about my heritage-- 118
(she gathers herself)
119 It would mean everything to me... 119

Katara BOWS -- Hama smiles. Is there a sense of foreboding behind that smile? Perhaps.

EXT. WOODS - NEXT DAY

Hama leads Katara away from the town.

HAMA
120 Growing up at the South Pole, Waterbenders are totally at home, surrounded by snow and ice and seas. But as you've probably noticed on your travels, that isn't the case wherever you go. 120

KATARA
121 I know. When we were stranded in the desert, I felt like there was almost nothing I could do. 121

HAMA
122 That's why you have to learn to control water wherever it exists. 122

KATARA
123 I've even used my own sweat for Waterbending... 123

HAMA
124 That's very resourceful, Katara -- you're thinking like a true master. But did you know you can even pull water out of thin air? 124

Hama smiles and demonstrates. She waves her hand around in circles. As she does, a SILVERY, WATERY GLOVE collects around her hand.

Hama stops circling her hand, and then freezes the water into ICY CLAWS which she clicks together menacingly.

HAMA
125 You've got to keep an open mind, Katara. There's water in places you never think about. 125

Hama SCRAPES her claws against a nearby tree, leaving a nasty set of SCARS on the bark. Katara is visibly impressed.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Meanwhile, Aang, Sokka, and Toph walk around the outskirts of the village. Everywhere they look they see beautiful, untouched nature. Aang shakes his head.

AANG
126 This has got to be the nicest natural setting in the Fire Nation. I don't see anything that would make a spirit mad around here. 126

TOPH
127 Maybe the moon spirit just turned mean. 127

Sokka immediately takes offense at that.

SOKKA
128 The moon spirit is a gentle, loving lady! She rules the sky with compassion and... lunar goodness! 128

They see a MAN from the town up ahead.

AANG
129 Excuse me, sir? Can you tell us anything about the spirit that's been stealing people? 129

MAN
130 Only one man ever saw it and lived, and that's Old Man Ding. 130

The kids share a look.

TOPH
131 Where does Old Man Ding live? 131

EXT. MEADOW - A LITTLE LATER

Katara and Hama stand in a lovely meadow, surrounded by vibrant ORANGE FLOWERS.

KATARA
132 Wow. These flowers are beautiful. 132

HAMA
133 They're called Fire Lilies. They only bloom a few weeks a year, but they're one of my favorite things about living here. And like all plants, and all living things, they're filled with water. 133

KATARA
134 I met a Waterbender who lived in a swamp and could control the vines by bending the water inside. 134

HAMA
135 You can take it even further. 135

Hama whips around, causing the flowers to RIPPLE as if blown by a strong wind, then SUCKS the water out of the flowers and BLASTS it at a nearby boulder, splitting it in half. Katara can't believe what she just saw.

KATARA
136 That was incredible! 136

She takes a look around at the meadow. Where there were once beautiful flowers, now there are only BROWN, WITHERED HUSKS. It takes a little wind out of her sails.

KATARA
137 It's a shame about the lilies, though. 137

HAMA
(waving this off)
138 They're just flowers. When you're a Waterbender in a strange land, you do what you must to survive. 138

She puts her arm around Katara.

HAMA
139 Tonight I'll teach you the ultimate technique of Waterbending. 139
(MORE)

HAMA (cont'd)
It can only be done during the full moon, when your bending is at its peak.

KATARA
140 But isn't that dangerous? I thought people have been disappearing around here during the full moon. 140

Hama just smiles, a little patronizing.

HAMA
141 Oh, Katara. Two master Waterbenders beneath a full moon? I don't think we have anything to worry about. 141

EXT. TOWN - SUNDOWN (MOONRISE)

Aang, Sokka and Toph walk through the village to a house where an elderly man (OLD MAN DING) is hammering boards over his door like he's preparing for a hurricane.

AANG
142 Old Man Ding? 142

OLD MAN DING
(looking back at them)
143 Huh? 143

He POUNDS his thumb with the hammer.

OLD MAN DING
144 Aw, dad-blame it! What? Can't you see I'm busy? Got a full moon rising! And why does everyone call me that? I'm not that old! 144

The kids give him a once-over. He sure looks old.

OLD MAN DING
145 Well, I'm young at heart. Not ready to get snapped up by some moon monster yet, at least. 145

SOKKA
146 We wanted to ask you about that. 146

AANG
147 Did you get a good look at the spirit that took you? 147

OLD MAN DING

148 Didn't see no spirit. Just felt something come over me, like I was possessed. Forced me to start walking toward the mountain. 148

He points to the mountain near town.

OLD MAN DING

149 I tried to fight it, but I couldn't control my own limbs. It just about had me into a cave up there, and I looked up at the moon for what I thought would be my last glimpse of light. But then the sun started to rise, and I got control of myself again. I just high-tailed it away from that mountain as quick as I could. 149

The kids consider this story for a moment.

SOKKA

150 Why would a spirit want to take people to a mountain? 150

Suddenly, Toph has a revelation.

TOPH

151 Oh no -- I did hear people screaming under the mountain! The missing villagers must still be there! 151

They all look at the mountain in the distance, the full moon looming over it in the darkening sky.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Sokka, Toph, and Aang rush toward the mountain, passing through the area where they were camped at the beginning of the show. Toph stops for a moment to listen.

TOPH
152 I can hear them. They're this way. 152

She starts off again, and Aang and Sokka follow.

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

Hama and Katara walk together under the full moon. Hama looks up at the sky, INHALING deeply.

HAMA
153 Can you feel the power the full moon brings? For generations it has blessed Waterbenders with its glow, allowing us to do incredible things. 153

She smiles broadly, looking like she's slipping into insanity. Katara begins to feel a little unsure about Hama.

HAMA
154 I've never felt more alive. 154

She leads Katara further into the woods.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Toph leads Sokka and Aang to a mountain cave.

TOPH
155 This is the place. 155

Aang and Sokka look down the dark passage.

SOKKA
156 I can't see anything down there. 156

TOPH
157 That's why you have me. Let's go. 157

She takes Sokka's hand and leads them into the cave.

IN THE CAVE

It's a shaky, BLAIR WITCH-STYLE shot. We can barely make out our heroes, and we hear them STUMBLING, RUNNING INTO EACH OTHER, and BREATHING HEAVILY. Toph leads them through the winding passages until they reach a large LOCKED DOOR with a FLICKERING GLOW SEEPING from its edges. Toph quickly Metalbends it OFF ITS HINGES and the kids step inside...

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

Beneath a few SPUTTERING TORCHES the kids find about TWENTY PRISONERS chained to the walls of their cave prison. One of them looks up at the kids, smiling weakly.

PRISONER 1
158 We're saved! 158

As Toph works on freeing the prisoners, Aang looks around the cave, then turns to some of the prisoners.

AANG
159 I didn't know that spirits made prisons like this. Who brought you here? 159

PRISONER 2
160 It was no spirit-- 160

PRISONER 3
161 It was a witch! 161

The kids look surprised.

SOKKA
162 A witch? What do you mean? 162

PRISONER 2
163 She seems like a normal old woman -- but she controls people, like some dark puppetmaster! 163

SOKKA
(realizing)
164 Hama! 164

PRISONER 1
165 Yes! The innkeeper! 165

The kids trade frightened looks.

SOKKA
166 I knew there was something creepy about her! 166

AANG
167 We have to stop Hama! 167

TOPH
168 I'll get these people out of here. You go! 168

Aang and Sokka take off to find Katara and Hama.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Hama and Katara have stopped walking and stand in the woods beneath the full moon. While Hama talks, we see STILL SHOTS of the scenes she describes, intercut with her in the present.

HAMA
169 What I'm about to show you, I discovered in that wretched Fire Nation prison. 169

SHOT: Hama and some others in their suspended prison.

HAMA
170 The guards were always careful to keep any water away from us. They piped in dry air and had us suspended away from the ground. 170

SHOT: A battered Hama drinks water from an iron cup while surrounded by cruel-looking guards.

HAMA
171 Before giving us any water, they would bind our hands and feet so we couldn't bend. Any sign of trouble was met with cruel retribution. 171

Present day Hama looks up at the sky, her face bathed in the moonlight.

HAMA
172 And yet each month I felt the full moon enriching me with its energy. There had to be something I could do to escape. Then I realized that where there is life, there is water. 172

SHOT: Rats crawl over the bars of Hama's cage.

HAMA

173 The rats that scurried across the floor of my cage were nothing more than skins filled with liquid. And I passed years developing the skill that would lead to my escape: Bloodbending. 173

In the present, Katara shivers at the sound of the word.

HAMA

174 Controlling the water in another body, enforcing your own will over theirs. 174

SHOT: Hama has the rats lined up in a row like little soldiers.

HAMA

175 Once I had mastered the rats, I was ready for the men. 175

SHOT: Hama eyes her guard cruelly, her face a picture of rage, as she uses her Bloodbending on him, forcing him to open her cell.

HAMA

176 And during the next full moon, I walked free for the first time in decades, my cell unlocked by the very guards assigned to keep me in. 176

She turns to Katara, who is now horrified at Hama.

HAMA

177 Once you perfect this technique, you can control anything. Or anyone. 177

KATARA

178 But, to reach inside someone and control them... I don't know if I want that kind of power. 178

HAMA

179 The choice is not yours: the power exists. And it's your duty to use the gifts you've been given to win this war. 179

(MORE)

HAMA (cont'd)
Katara, they tried to wipe us out, our entire culture. Your mother!

Katara hangs her head.

KATARA
180 I know. 180

HAMA
181 Then you should understand what I'm talking about! We're the last Waterbenders of the Southern Tribe. We have to fight these people whenever we can, wherever they are, with any means necessary. 181

Katara looks at her, realizing...

KATARA
182 It's you! You're the one who's making people disappear during the full moons! 182

HAMA
183 They threw me in prison to rot, along with my brothers and sisters. They deserve the same. You must carry on my work. 183

KATARA
184 I won't! I won't use Bloodbending, and I won't allow you to keep terrorizing this town! 184

She starts to walk away, but realizes she can't move. Her body is wheeled around against her will to face Hama. Hama holds out her hands like a puppeteer controlling a marionette. She smiles wickedly.

HAMA
185 You should have learned the technique before you turned against me. 185

Katara contorts her face, struggling against the invisible bonds of Bloodbending.

HAMA
186 It's impossible to fight your way out of my grip. I control every muscle, every vein in your body. 186

She starts jerking Katara around like a dancer, making her PIROUETTE. Katara continues to fight, but Hama is right. It's pointless. While she's not in any physical pain, Katara is completely humiliated and starts to CRY.

KATARA
(weeping)
187 Stop. Please. 187

HAMA
188 (INSANE LAUGHTER) 188

Hama's laughter steels Katara's nerves. She closes her eyes and concentrates, giving up her physical struggle and fighting back with her bending.

Suddenly, she stops jerking around. She breathes deeply, then strikes a fighting stance.

She SUCKS WATER from the ground the way Hama taught her and BLASTS Hama with it.

KATARA
192 You're not the only one who draws power from the moon. 192

KATARA
191 My bending is more powerful than yours, Hama. Your technique is useless on me. 191

Hama barely manages to deflect it, and they begin an INCREDIBLE BATTLE. We're talking about two master Waterbenders at the absolute height of their powers. It's a breathtakingly savage exchange.

As they fight, Sokka and Aang come running up.

SOKKA
193 We know what you've been doing, Hama! 193

AANG
194 Give up! You're outnumbered! 194

Hama stops fighting -- she's surrounded.

HAMA
195 No... 195
(evil smile)
196 You've outnumbered yourselves. 196

She EXTENDS her hands, controlling Aang and Sokka with her Bloodbending -- they're her puppets now. Hama HURLS them at Katara, smashing them into her. Katara is knocked down. Hama forces Sokka to pull out his sword.

SOKKA
197 Katara, look out! 197

He runs at Katara, but Katara manages to duck out of his way. But now Aang and Sokka are both attacking her, and Katara must blast them with Waterbending to hold them off.

(NOTE ON BLOODBENDING: The Bloodbender can only cause a person to physically attack, she cannot control another bender's abilities. So Hama cannot make Aang Airbend at Katara or Sokka.)

SOKKA
(while being controlled)
197A It's like my brain has a mind of its own! / Stop it arms! Stop it! 197A

AANG
(while being controlled)
197B This feels weird! 197B

Katara hits Aang with a Waterbending blow to the chest, knocking him backwards.

AANG
198 Ow! 198

KATARA
199 I'm sorry, Aang! 199

AANG
199A It's okay! 199A

HAMA
200 Don't hurt your friends, Katara. 200

She makes Sokka attack again, and Katara freezes his arms before he can strike. She quickly takes another shot at Hama, which causes Hama to defend and allows Sokka and Aang to break out of her control. Sokka and Aang start to charge Hama, but before they can reach her, she TAKES HOLD of them again.

HAMA
201 And don't let them hurt each other. 201

She turns Sokka to face Aang. Sokka holds up his sword like he's about to ATTACK Aang! Katara runs forward.

KATARA

202 No! 202

She EXTENDS her hands at Hama before Sokka can bring down his sword. Sokka suddenly stops and slowly brings his sword down to his side, and Aang stands up. They look at Katara, who stands before Hama, CONTROLLING HER WITH BLOODBENDING. Hama is frozen in place. As Katara holds her there, STONE SHACKLES pop up around Hama's hands and feet.

Katara turns to see Toph and the released prisoners running up toward them. The prisoners surround Hama and haul her off to face justice in the town.

PRISONER 1

203 You're going to be locked away forever! 203

As she's being escorted away, she gives Katara a GRIM SMILE.

HAMA

204 My work is done. Congratulations, Katara. You're a Bloodbender. 204

We see a HORRIFIED LOOK come over Katara's face. She's been forced into something that she never wanted to do, and she reels from the knowledge of what she's become.

Hama and the prisoners head off into the distance, and Katara slumps to the ground, exhausted and anguished. The kids gather around her, hugging her, and Katara begins to WEEP.

KATARA

205 (SOFT, PAINED CRYING) 205

She looks up at the FULL MOON, its cold, bitter glow bathing her face, shimmering on her tears.

END OF SHOW